GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4020
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2002
FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO POORS
CHANDRA NATH SINGH;SUKDEO PASWAN

Will the Minister of LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated by the Union Government for providing free legal assistance to poor during the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether the allocation made during 2001-2002 has been utilised properly;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) Funds are not allocated directly to the State Governments. In terms of sub-section (c) of Section 4 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) allocates funds to the State Legal Services Authorities for implementatior of legal aid programmes and schemes propagated by NALSA which include provision for free legal assistance to the poor. During the current financial year starting from lst April, 2002, no funds have been allocated by NALSA so far.

(b) to (d) As far as the utilization of funds allocated during the financial year 2001-2002, the State Legal Services Authorities have been required to furnish to NALSA, statements of account of expenditure met from the aforesaid funds, duly audited and certified by Govt. Auditors. The process of submission of statements of account is expected to be completed shortly.